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## Community Snapshot

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## COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT: A PERSONAL DESIRE TO INFORM

**R**adio Arte, 90.5 WRTE-FM, is a Latino-owned, bilingual, youth driven public radio station that works to advance the voices of our multi-layered society. Radio Arte does this by promoting socially conscious journalism, providing media-literacy training; and creating programming that showcases music, issues, and events that are not featured prominently by mainstream media.

With more than 1.4 million Mexicans in the Chicago-land area, Chicago has the second largest Mexican population in the nation and one of the youngest. In the Pilsen/Little Village area (two of Chicago's Latino neighborhoods), 42% of its residents are 20 and under. While young Latinos make up an overwhelming percentage of the city's population, the opportunities that they have to have their viewpoints represented in Chicago's media landscape are limited.

According to recent research conducted by *Free Press*, first published in its studies "Off The Dial and Out of the Picture" in 2007:

- "Racial and ethnic minorities make up nearly two-thirds of the population in the city of Chicago yet own only five percent of Chicago's full-power commercial radio and television stations."
- "Among the nation's 22 largest radio markets, Chicago has the lowest level of minority ownership. Among the 10 largest radio markets, Chicago is the only market with single digit levels of minority ownership."
- "Women own just six percent of Chicago's full-power commercial radio and television stations, despite comprising over half the population."

To counteract the lack of diversity of ownership and viewpoints represented in the media, Radio Arte trains youth between the ages of 15-21, from all over the Chicago-land area, but predominantly from the South-West side of Chicago: Pilsen, Little Village, Back of the Yards, Gage Park, including the western suburbs, e.g. Cicero & Berwyn. Most youth are of Mexican/Mexican-American descent and are immigrants or the children of immigrants. The National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA) acquired this Class D radio station in 1996, and has since supported the various initiatives that have catapulted Radio Arte into a national award winning institution.

Radio Arte is a proponent of a first voice philosophy and we have created a space where we've taught our community the power of being able to create our own stories and frame our own issues. Our goal is nothing less than to train the next generation of media-makers, journalists, and community leaders. Radio Arte is often cited as a national model for the impact that communities have when they own their own media. Youth from our training program have become media justice activists that have testified on Federal Communication Commission hearings, participated in media reform conferences, and have challenged media structures when they have misrepresented communities.

In fact, one of their programs in collaboration with Tania Unzueta (Director, Radio Arte's Youth Training Program) called, Purple Politics: Coverage of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Issues in the Midwest, challenges and engages mainstream structures. Radio Arte's staff often bring to the forefront crucial debates and often invite special guests to discuss topics such as LGBTQ media mis-portrayals, gay marriage to political scandals. The mainstream media has had a long history of stereotypical coverage of all these issues that are of concern to the LGBTQ community. Too often, the media portrays issues affecting the LGBTQ community as white, male, and affluent. Radio Arte will continue to be different.

Connect and learn more about us and our training program: Radio Arte - 1401 West 18th Street - Chicago, Illinois 60608  
<http://www.radioarte.org>



# RESOURCES

THE FOLLOWING ARE RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER READING AND RESEARCH.  
MOST WEBSITES HAVE LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES RELATED TO THE MAIN ISSUES IN THIS ISSUE OF DIÁLOGO

## AFFINITY

5650 South Woodlawn Ave  
Chicago, Illinois 60637-1623  
773.324-0377

Affinity is a non profit organization serving Chicago's black lesbian and bisexual women's community.

<http://www.Affinity95.org>

## AMIGAS LATINAS

Center on Halsted  
3656 North Halsted St  
Chicago, Illinois 60613  
773.472.6469

Amigas Latinas works to identify the needs of Latina queers. It provides resources to cover those needs by organizing a safe environment where the Latina lesbians, bisexuals and questioning women can reunite, discuss and share their problems and experiences. Provides access to information and resources that may help the Latina lesbians, bisexuals and questioning women and their families so they can live healthier and fuller lives.

[www.amigaslatinas.org](http://www.amigaslatinas.org)

## ALMA

Center on Halsted  
3656 North Halsted St  
Chicago, Illinois 60613  
773.472.6469

The Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA) is an educational, social, advocacy, and support group for gay, bisexual, or questioning men.

[www.almachicago.org](http://www.almachicago.org)

## CENTER ON HALSTED

3656 North Halsted St  
Chicago, Illinois 60613  
773.472.6469

The Chicago area's community center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons.

[www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

## THE GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION

70 East Lake Street, Suite 900  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
312.368.9070

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

[www.GLAAD.org](http://www.GLAAD.org)

## HOWARD BROWN

4025 North Sheridan Road  
Chicago Illinois 60613

The mission of Howard Brown is to promote the well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons through the provision of health care and wellness programs, including clinical, educational, social service and research activities.

[www.howardbrown.org](http://www.howardbrown.org)

## LAMBDA LEGAL

Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

[www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org)

## LATINOS PROGRESANDO

3840 26th Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60623  
773.542.7077

Latinos Progresando serves immigrants through the highest quality, low-cost legal immigration services, community education and engagement, and advocacy/organizing around policy that affects immigrants.

[www.latinospro.org](http://www.latinospro.org)

## LCCP-LESBIAN COMMUNITY CARE PROJECT

4025 North Sheridan Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60613  
773.561.4662

The Mission of LCCP is to advance the health and quality of life for lesbian, bisexual and transgender women through advocacy and public education.

[www.lccp.org](http://www.lccp.org)

## MUJERES LATINAS EN ACCIÓN

1823 West 17th Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60608  
312.738.5351

Mujeres Latinas en Accion is a bilingual, bicultural agency that seeks to empower women, their families and youth to become self-reliant and able to take full advantage of available opportunities, and create new opportunities to improve the quality of their lives.

[www.mujereslatinasenaccion.org](http://www.mujereslatinasenaccion.org)

## ORGULLO EN ACCIÓN

Orgullo en Accion is a group Latino/a LGBTQQ community members united in working for social and political change. Our goals are to promote education, provide leadership development, and to increase Latino/a LGBTQQ awareness within communities.

[www.orgulloenaccion.org](http://www.orgulloenaccion.org)

## PFLAG CHICAGO

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

[www.pflagchicago.com](http://www.pflagchicago.com)

## POW-WOW CHICAGO

Pow-Wow Chicago supports, develops and increases the visibility of women artists, particularly those of color, in an effort to create social change and gender consciousness around issues of media representation, inclusive cultural arts documentation and political awareness of how we fit in the scope of global affairs.

[www.powwowchicago.org](http://www.powwowchicago.org)

## VIDA SIDA

2703 West Division Street Chicago  
773.278.6737

Vida Sida's mission is to educate, advocate and empower Chicago's Puerto Rican/Latino community by promoting culturally responsive health care/resources that enable health affirming behaviors and attitudes.

[www.powwowchicago.org](http://www.powwowchicago.org)

## WRTE-RADIO ARTE 90.5 FM

1401 West 18th Street  
Chicago Illinois 60610

Homofrecuencia es un espacio que busca proveer un lugar necesario para los y las jóvenes latinos que se identifican como lesbianas, gay, bisexuales, transgeneros, queer, o en duda. Lunes de 8 a 10 pm.

[www.radioarte.org](http://www.radioarte.org)